

List of titles in the Ladybird Series 606D (Well-loved tales)
Graded in order of reading difficulty.

Grade 1

The Elves and the Shoemaker
The Three Little Pigs
The Gingerbread Boy
The Little Red Hen
The Princess and the Pea
The Sly Fox and the Little Red Hen
The Three Billy-goats Gruff
Chicken Licken
The Enormous Turnip
Goldilocks and the Three Bears
The Magic Porridge Pot
The Big Pancake
The Old Woman and her Pig
The Ugly Duckling
The Emperor's New Clothes

Grade 2

Sleeping Beauty
Dick Whittington and his Cat

Grade 2 (continued)

Puss in Boots
Rumpelstiltskin
Rapunzel
The Wolf and the Seven Little Kids
Little Red Riding Hood
The Musicians of Bremen
Pinocchio
The Golden Goose

Grade 3

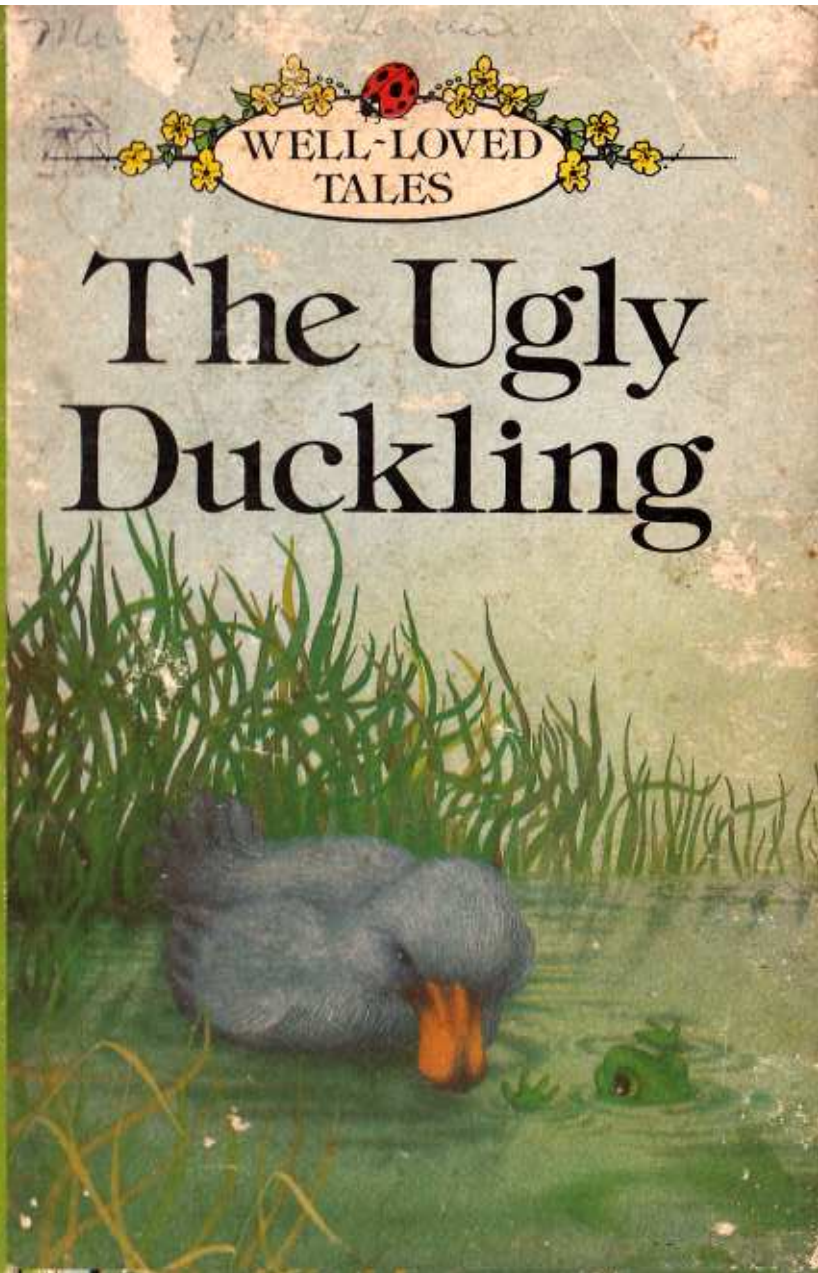
Cinderella
Jack and the Beanstalk
Beauty and the Beast
Snow White and Rose Red
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
The Princess and the Frog
Tom Thumb
The Little Mermaid

Ladybird titles cover a wide range of subjects and reading ages.
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Every new generation of children is enthralled by the famous stories in our Well-Loved Tales series. Younger ones love to have the story read to them, and to examine each tiny detail of the full colour illustrations. Older children will enjoy the exciting stories in an easy-to-read text.



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WELL-LOVED TALES

The Ugly Duckling

PRIZE DAY



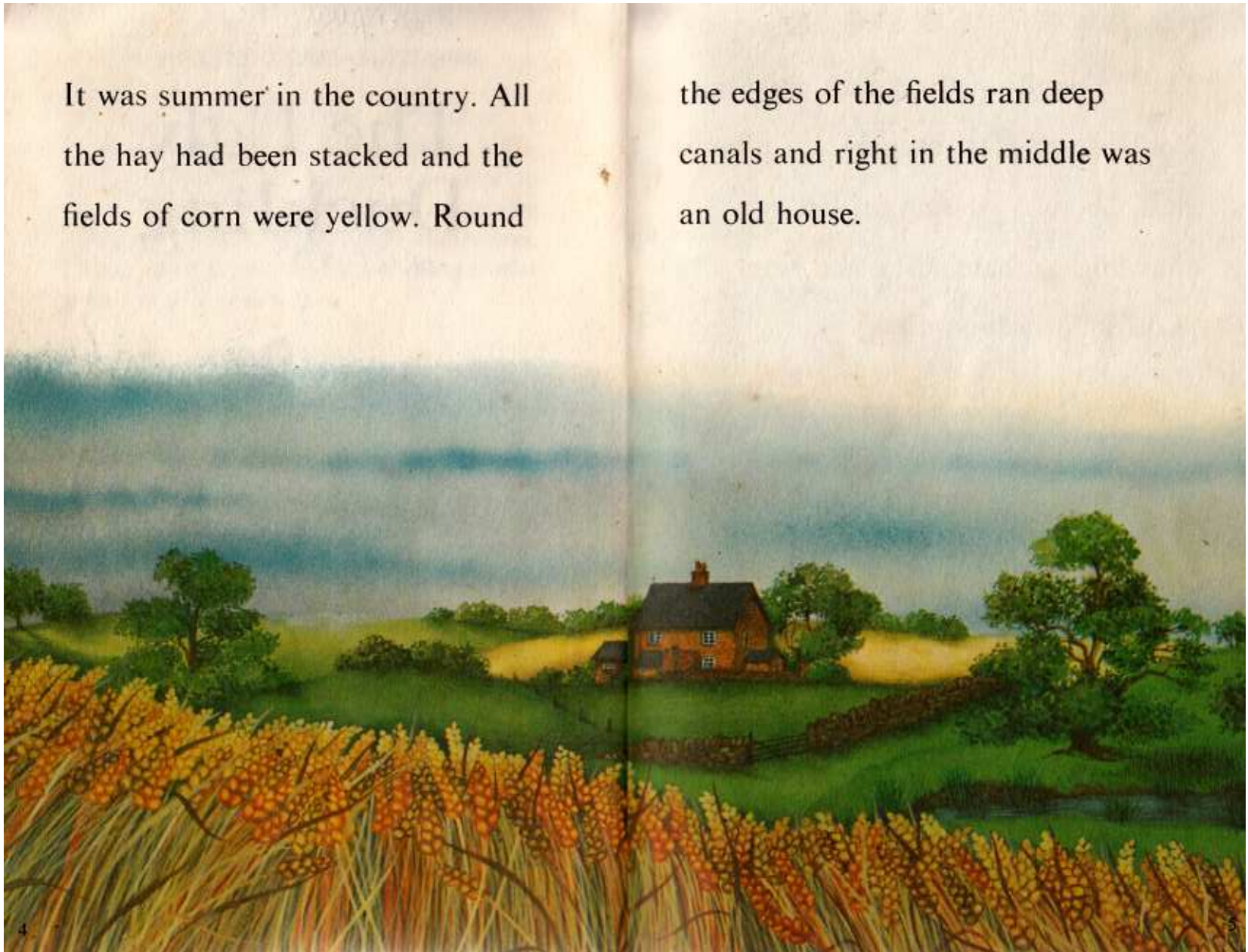
retold for easy reading
by LYNNE BRADBURY

illustrated by PETULA STONE

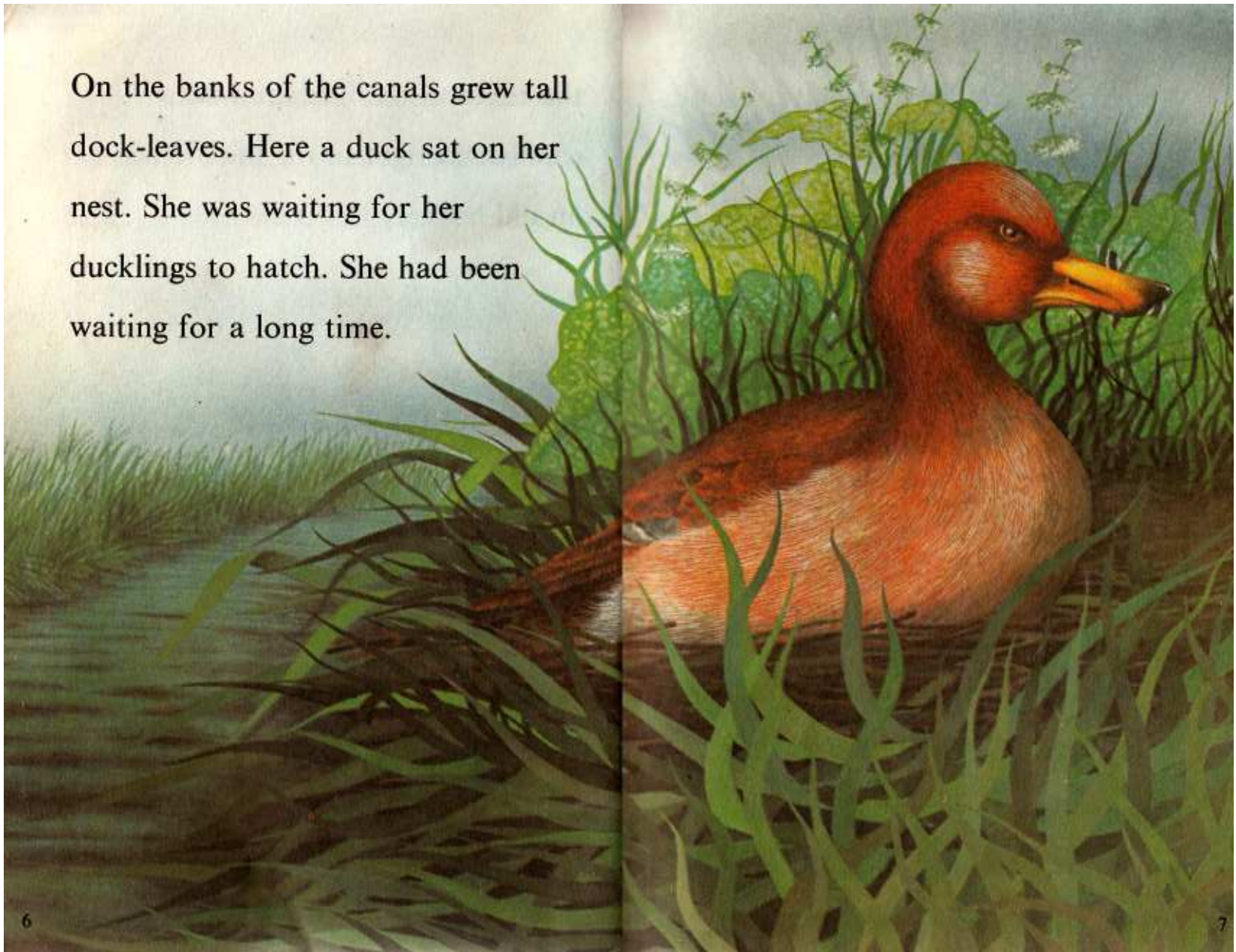
Ladybird Books Loughborough

It was summer in the country. All the hay had been stacked and the fields of corn were yellow. Round

the edges of the fields ran deep canals and right in the middle was an old house.



On the banks of the canals grew tall
dock-leaves. Here a duck sat on her
nest. She was waiting for her
ducklings to hatch. She had been
waiting for a long time.



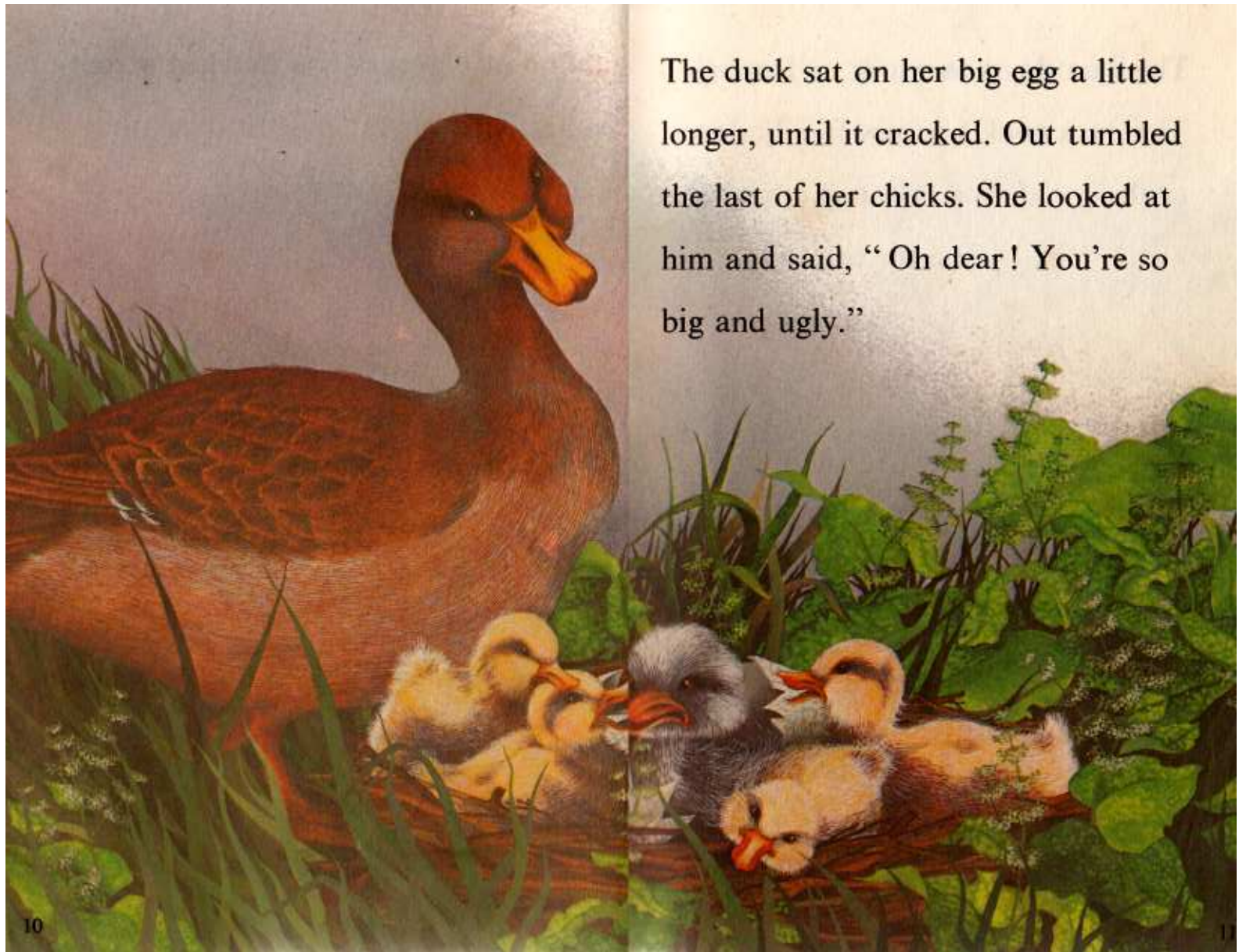


At last the eggs began to crack. One by one the ducklings poked their heads out. "Cheep, cheep!" they said, as they saw the big outside world.

Soon all the eggs had hatched except one. This was the biggest of all the eggs.



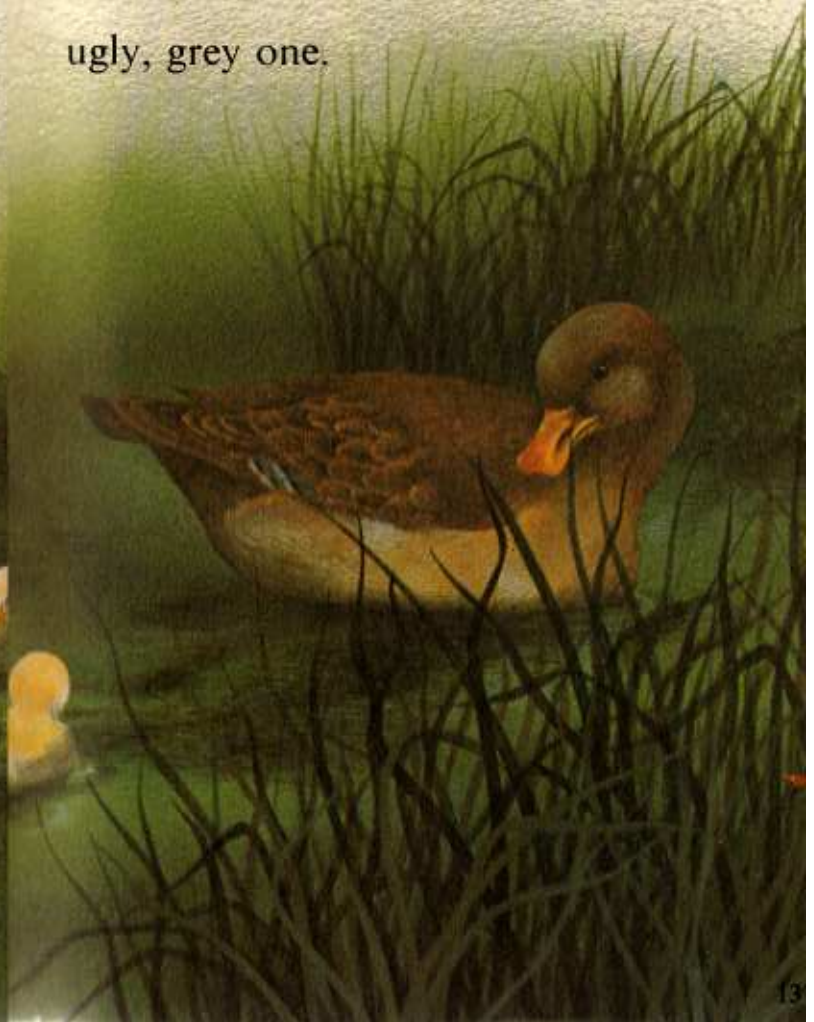
The duck sat on her big egg a little longer, until it cracked. Out tumbled the last of her chicks. She looked at him and said, “Oh dear! You’re so big and ugly.”



The next day was warm and sunny.
The duck took her new family down
to the canal. She splashed into the
water. One by one the ducklings



followed her. Soon they were all
swimming beautifully, even the big,
ugly, grey one.





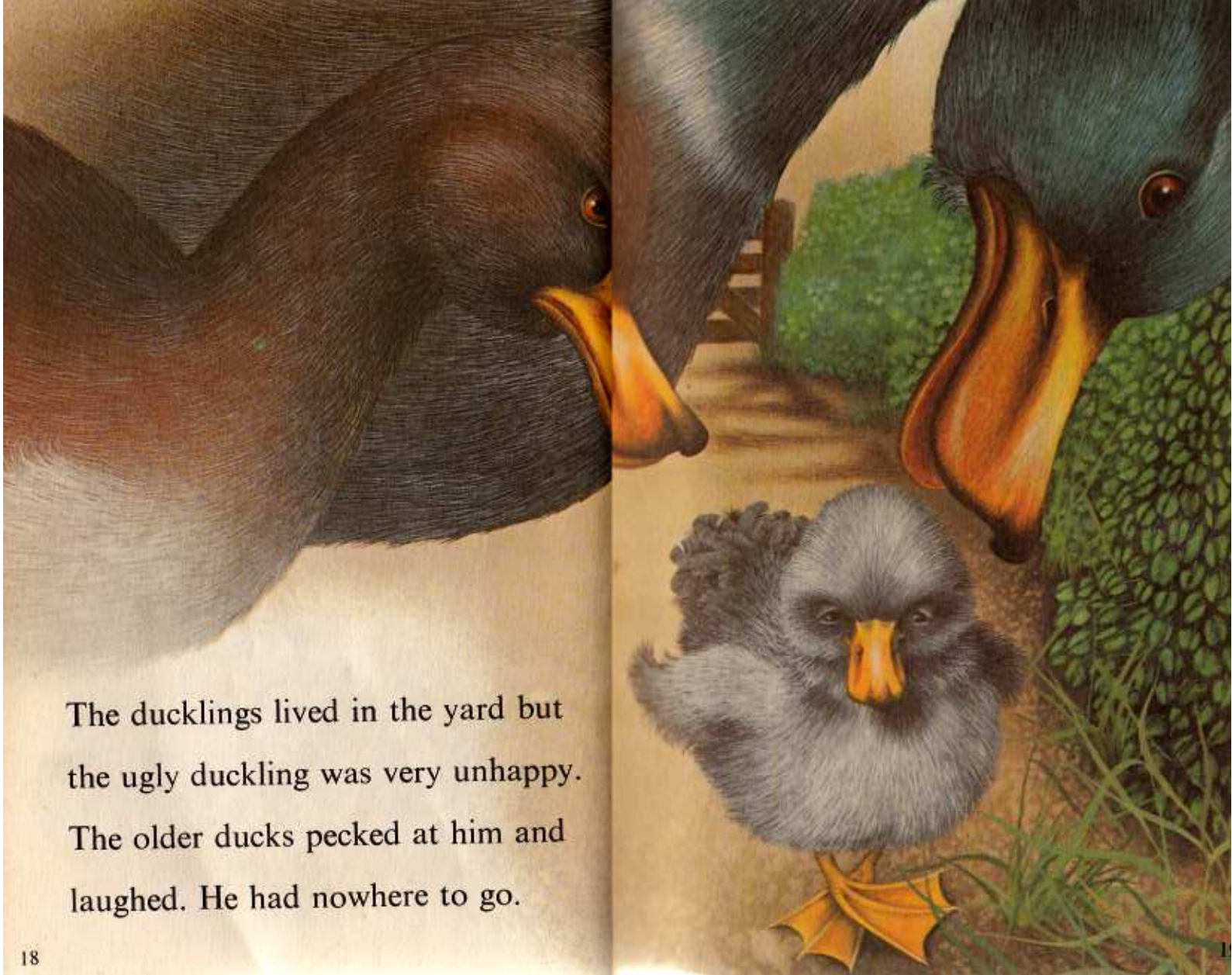
Next the mother took her ducklings into the duck-yard. "Stay close to me and watch out for the cat," she said to them, "and remember to

bow your heads to that duck over there." This was the oldest and most important duck in the yard.

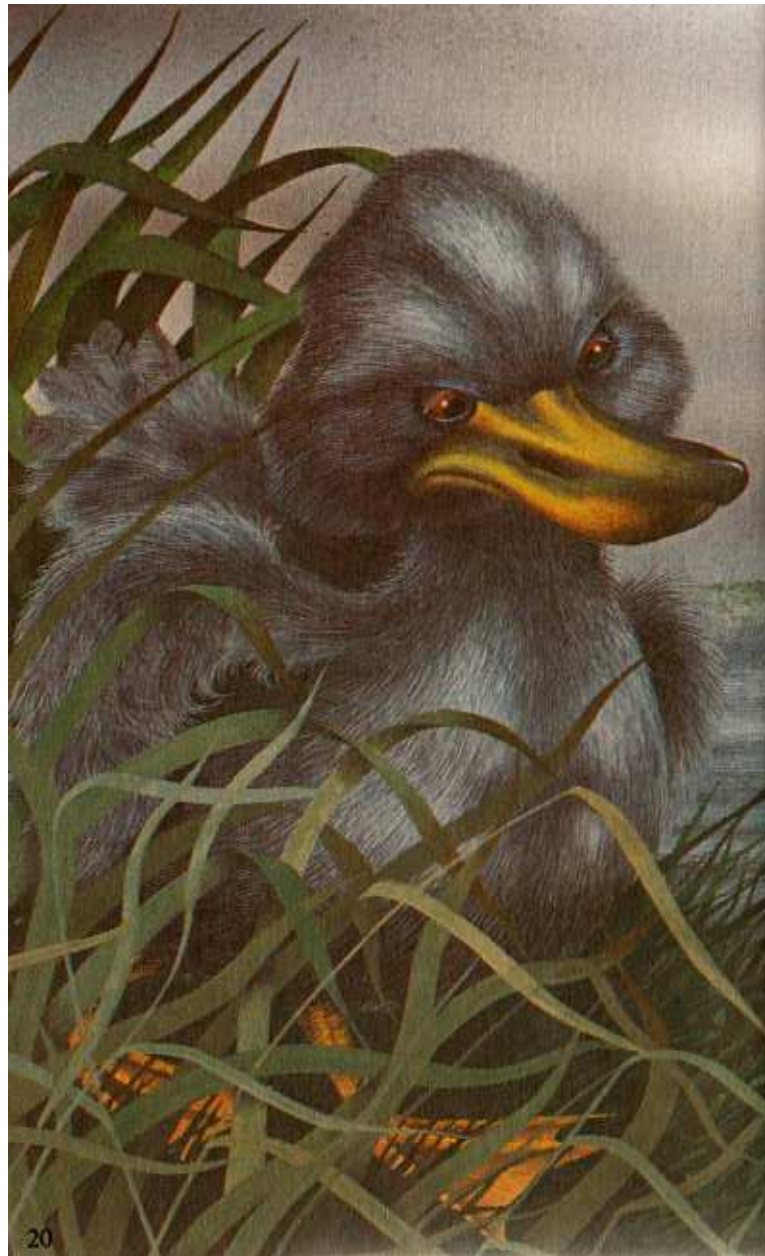


The duck-yard was very noisy. The ducklings walked close to their mother and remembered to bow their heads. The other ducks thought they were all beautiful — except for the big ugly one.

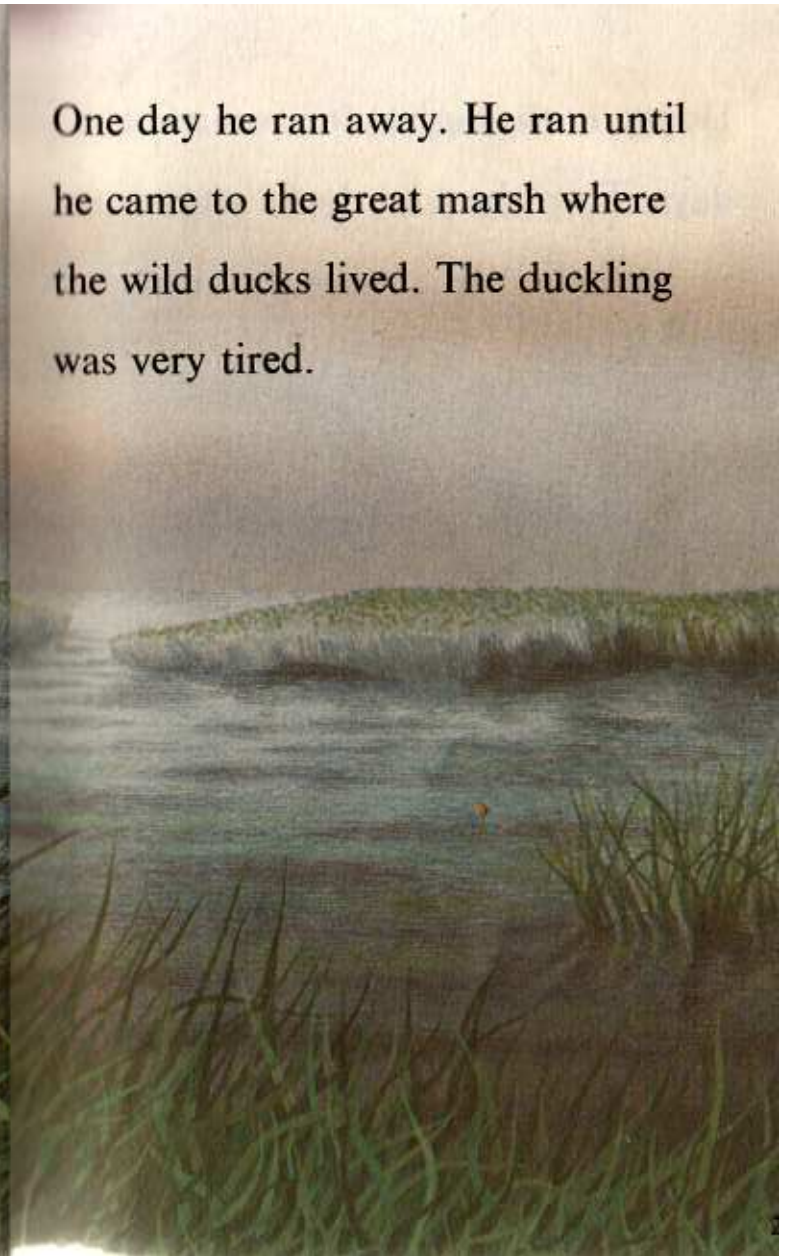




The ducklings lived in the yard but
the ugly duckling was very unhappy.
The older ducks pecked at him and
laughed. He had nowhere to go.



One day he ran away. He ran until he came to the great marsh where the wild ducks lived. The duckling was very tired.

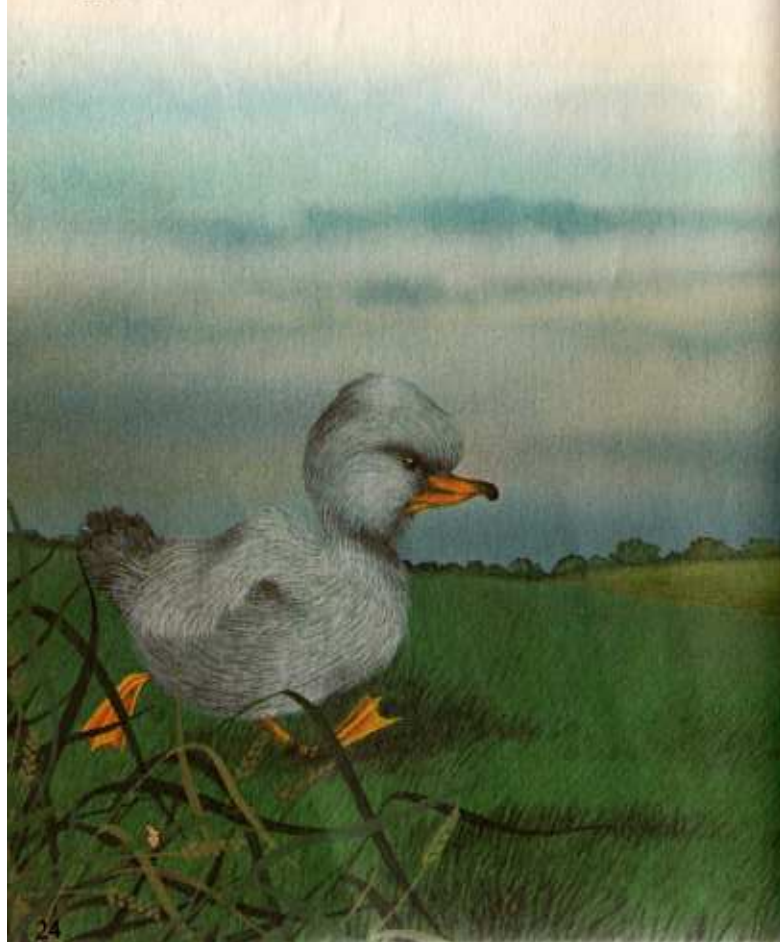


He lay in the rushes for two whole days. Then the wild ducks and some

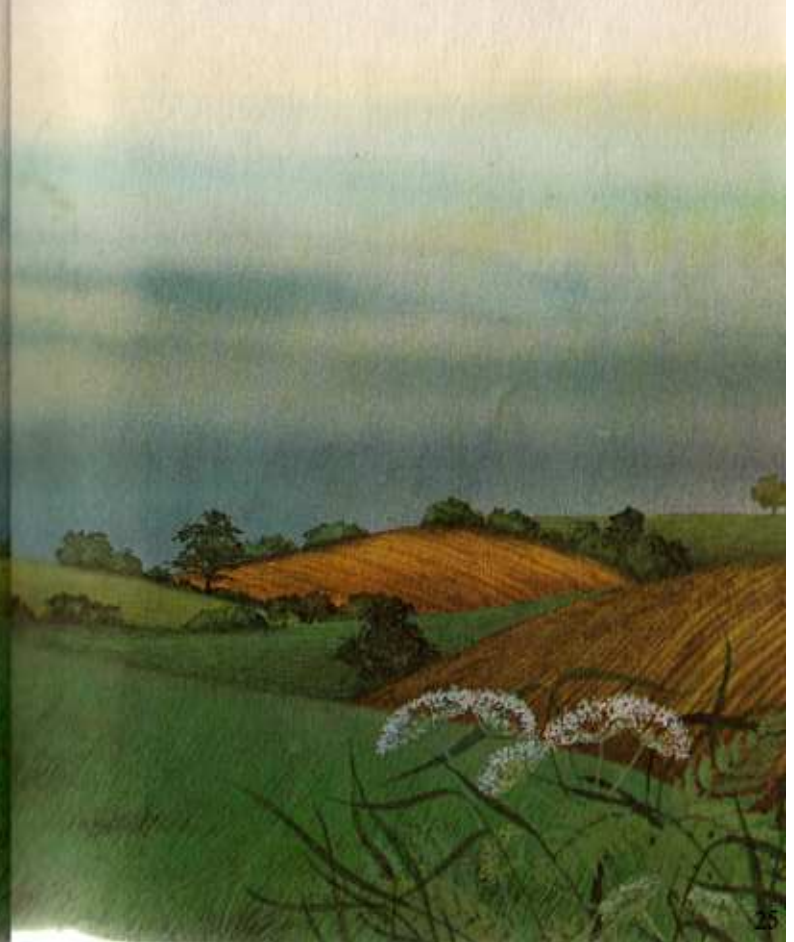
geese came to look at him. "You're very ugly," they said, and they laughed at him.



The poor ugly duckling ran away
from the great marsh. He ran and
ran over the fields and meadows.



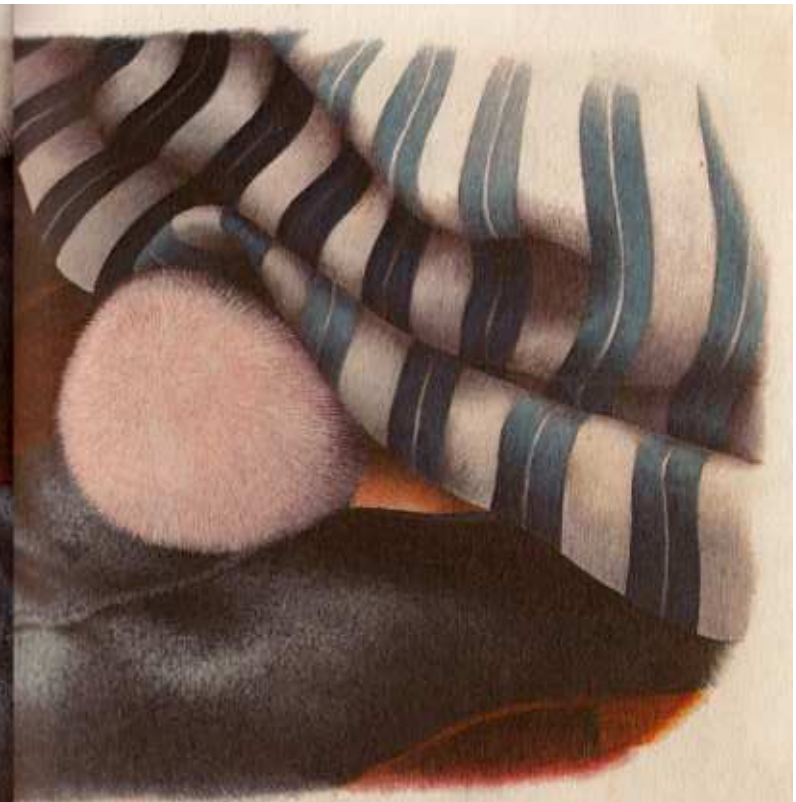
The wind blew and the duckling was
cold and tired.





It was getting dark. The duckling found a little cottage. It was very old and the door was falling off. This left a gap just big enough for the duckling to creep inside out of the cold.





An old woman lived in the cottage.
She had a cat which could purr and
a hen which laid eggs. They found
the ugly duckling in the morning.



The old woman said, "You can stay.
Now we shall have duck eggs."

So the duckling stayed but he did
not lay eggs.





The cat said to him, "Can you purr?"

"No," said the duckling.

The hen said, "Can you lay eggs?"

"No," said the duckling, sadly.

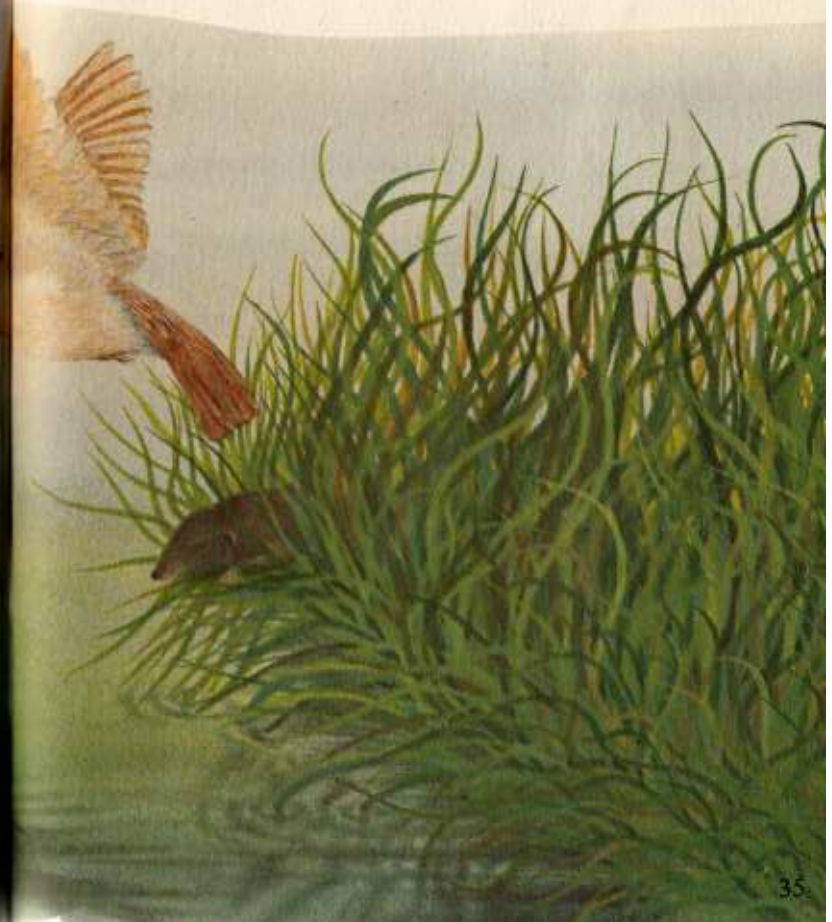
"Then you must go," said the cat and the hen.



The ugly duckling went away again.
He walked in the marshes and
floated on the water. Everywhere he



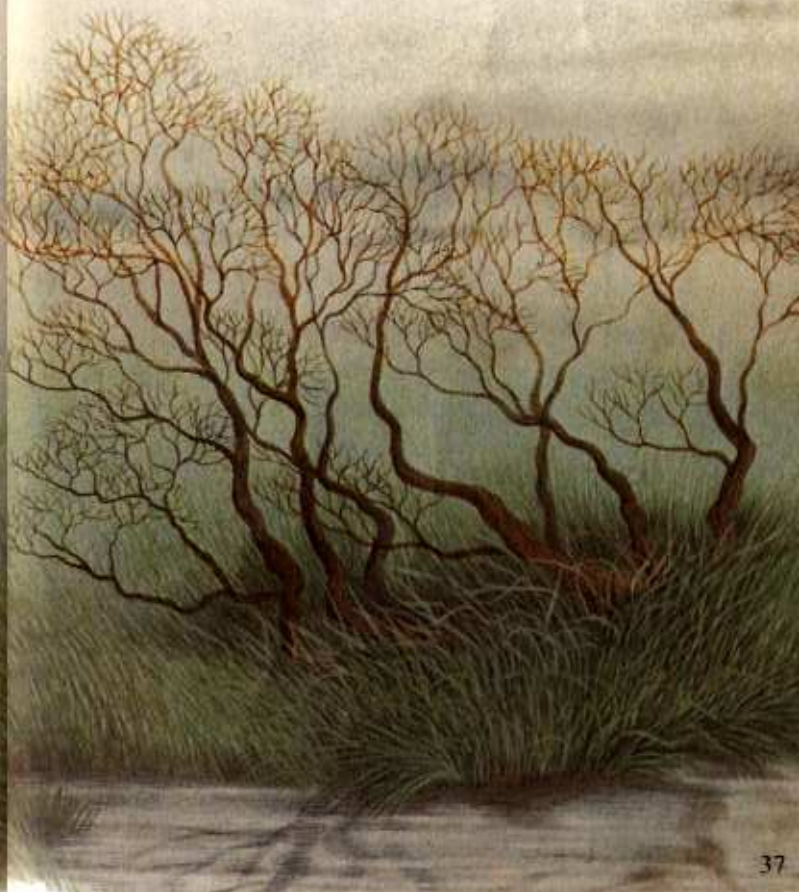
went, birds and animals said, "How
big and ugly you are."



Winter was coming. The leaves had
dropped from the trees. The ground



was cold and hard and the duckling
had nowhere to stay.





One evening a flock of birds flew overhead. They were beautiful white swans with long necks.

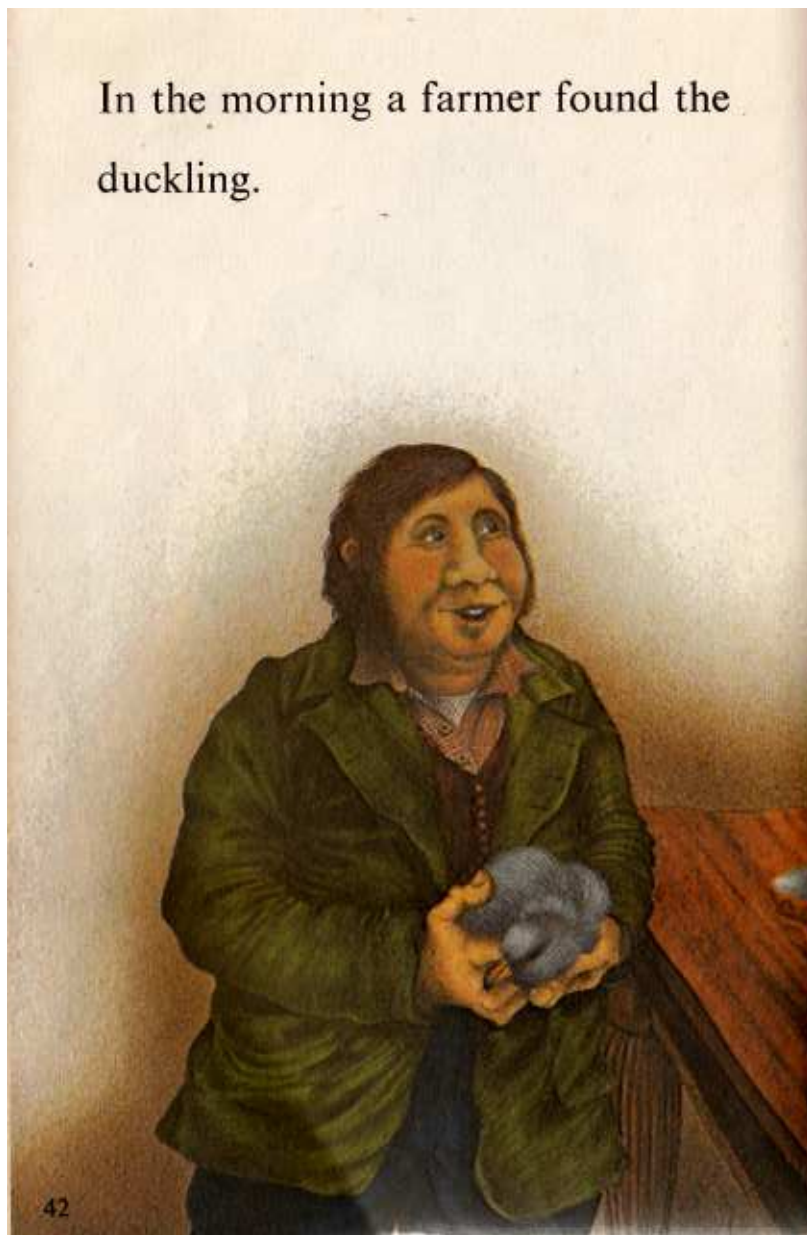
“I wish I was like that,” said the duckling.





The winter grew colder. The duckling had to peck at the ice to find water. One night, he was so tired he fell asleep on the ice.

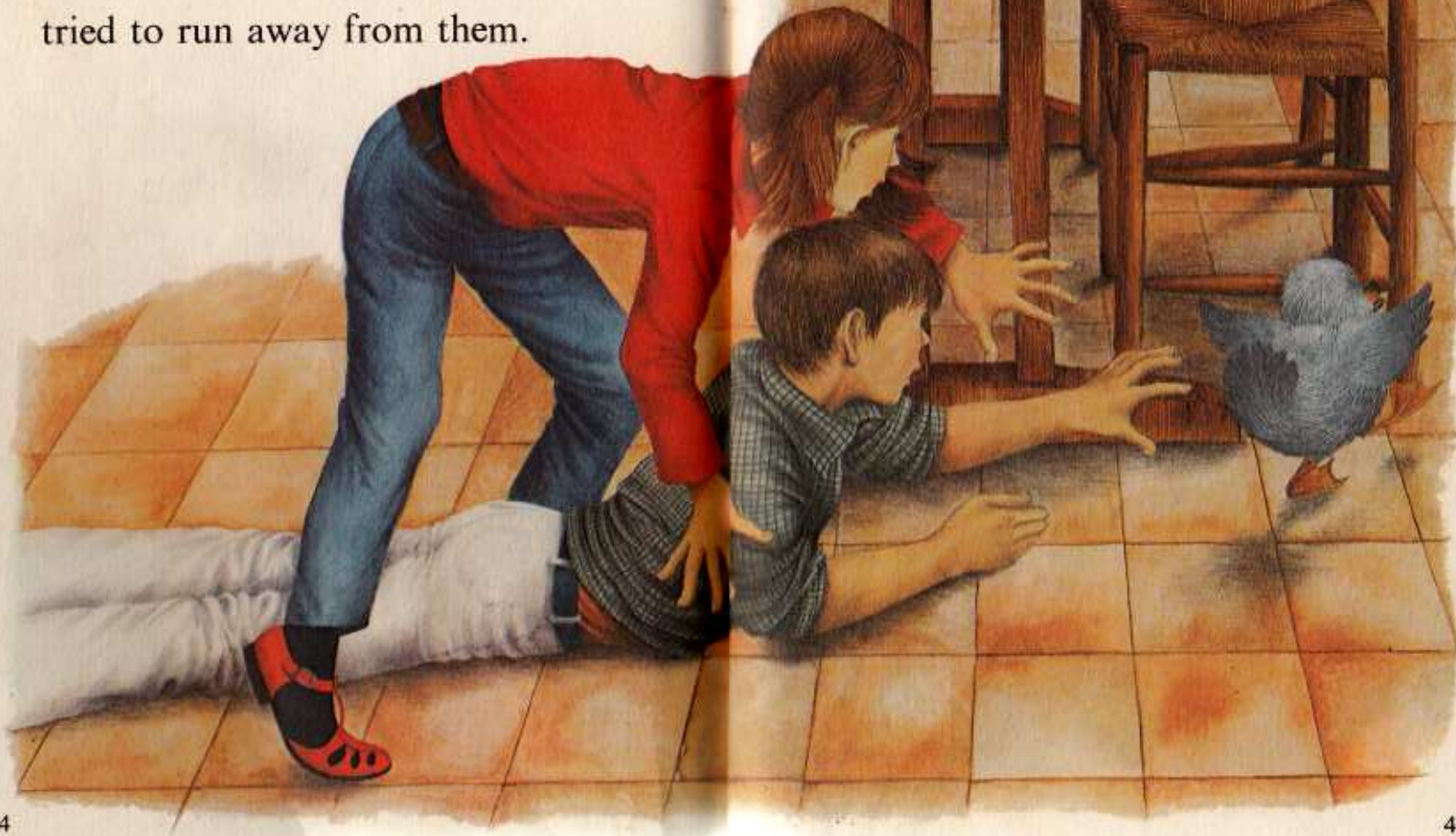
In the morning a farmer found the
duckling.



He took him home for his wife to
look after.



When the duckling was better, the farmer's children wanted to play with him. He was frightened and tried to run away from them.





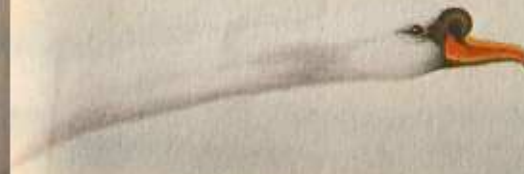
He flew into the milk churn and then landed in a barrel of flour. The children laughed and tried to catch him. The duckling ran far away.





He hid among reeds in the marsh all
through the long, cold winter.

Then the warm spring sun came.
The duckling spread his wings. They
were strong wings now and he flew
high into the air.



He flew over the canal and saw three beautiful swans. As he landed, the duckling saw himself in the water. He was not an ugly duckling at all. He was a beautiful white swan !

“Come with us,” said the other swans.

And he did.

